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Dkt. 0655/69387

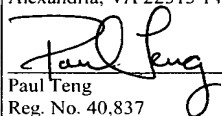
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Baofu DUAN et al.

Serial No.: 10/615,885

Date Filed: July 8, 2003

For: HIERARCHICAL DETERMINATION OF FEATURE RELEVANCY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
 Paul Teng Reg. No. 40,837	<u>December 14, 2004</u> Date

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the information identified therein are also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The information listed in the Form PTO-1449 was cited in a International Search Report issued November 11, 2004 in connection with International Application No. PCT/US2004/021511 which corresponds to the above-identified application. A copy of the November 11, 2004 International Search Report is enclosed herewith.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped,

however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

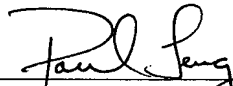
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, a first Office Action on the merits has not been issued in this application.

Alternatively, Applicants request consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). Each item of information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior hereto. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement.

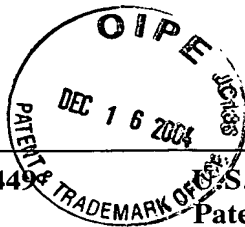
However, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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<b>Form PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. <b>0655/69387</b>	Serial No. <b>10/615,885</b>
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)		
Applicants: <b>Baofu DUAN et al.</b>		Filing Date: <b>July 8, 2003</b>
Group Art Unit:		

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
					Yes	No

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	November 11, 2004 International Search Report in connection with International Application No. PCT/US2004/021511 which corresponds to the above-identified application.
	Narendra, P.M. et al. (September 1977) "A Branch and Bound Algorithm for Feature Subset Selection", IEEE Transactions On Computers, Vol. C-26, No. 9, pgs. 917-922.
	Krusinska, E. (1989) "Two Step Semi-Optimal Branch And Bound Algorithm For Feature Selection In Mixed Variable Discrimination", Pattern Recognition, Vol. 22, No. 4, pgs. 455-459.
	Frank, I.E. (1995) "Modern nonlinear regression methods", Chemometrics and Intelligent Laboratory Systems, Vol. 27, pgs. 1-19.
	Jain, A. et al. (February 1997) "Feature Selection: Evaluation, Application, and Small Sample Performance", IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 19, No. 2, pgs. 153-158.
	Hwang, W-S et al. (November 2000) "Hierarchical Discriminant Regression", IEEE Transactions On Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 22, No. 11, pgs. 1277-1293.

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.